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LOUISIANA SELECTED TO DEVELOP NATIONAL MODEL

Baton Rouge: Louisiana will once again serve as a national model in teacher reform, this time in the area of reading. Louisiana is one of five states that have been selected to work with the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices and the Harvard Graduate School of Education to develop collaborative models for higher education and K-12 education to address President George Bush's Reading First initiative as part of the "No Child Left Behind" legislation.

Louisiana will send a twenty member team of higher education and K-12 representatives to attend a five day institute at Harvard University from August 18 - 22. Following the institute, the Louisiana team will develop specific reading proficiencies and assessments for teachers, and meet with teams from universities/districts from across the state who possess expertise in reading.

"We are very pleased that Louisiana has been selected to develop a model program to drive reading reform in the country. Our state is on an excellent path in teacher education reform and I am delighted that the progressive work occurring in our state is once again being recognized," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie.

The outcome of this effort will be shared with all universities and districts to assist pre-service and experienced teachers in addressing reading needs of students in schools. Other states selected to participate in the program include Georgia, Florida, Nevada, and New Jersey.

In addition to learning about the Harvard selection, Regent members approved funding to advance the state's teacher reform efforts. The board awarded approximately \$2.5 million specifically targeted to address the implementation of redesigned alternative and regular teacher preparation program, professional development for university faculty and integration of technology into the curriculum. (Attached is the list of colleges/universities to receive funds.)

Regent members also approved the redesign of two practitioner teacher programs:
UNO -- Grades 4-8, 7-12 math (science) and mild/moderate special education and
Dillard University -- Special education.